

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, Claims 1-15 were pending. By the present response, Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. Therefore, Claims 1-12 and 15 remain and await further consideration on the merits.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)*

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EPO '806 on the grounds set forth in paragraph two of the Official Action.

While Applicants do not agree that EPO '806 anticipates these claims, Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. Therefore, the above-mentioned rejection has been obviated.

*ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER*

The allowability of Claims 1-12 and 15 in paragraph three of the Official Action is noted with appreciation.

*CONCLUSION*

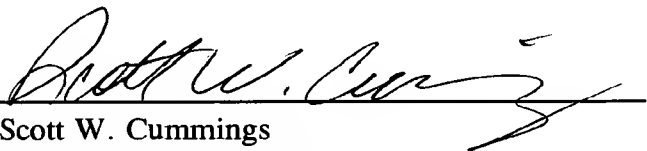
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain, it is requested that the

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Examiner contact the undersigned so that any such issues may be addressed by way of  
Supplemental Amendment or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:   
Scott W. Cummings  
Registration No. 41,567

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

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